

18th April 2005

**Re: Proposed V8 Supercar Championship Street Race**

This submission is from the Wellington Architectural Centre, a group which represents both professional and non-professionals interested in architecture and design, and in the promotion of good design in Wellington.

The Architectural Centre acknowledges the benefits of the V8 Street Car race as an event for Wellington City which could make a productive contribution to the city. We are concerned however about how the works needed to create the race circuit will progress without compromising the urban quality of the city, especially in relation to the need to continue to create better links between the CBD and the waterfront.

**The relation between the CBD and the waterfront**

The proposed race circuit appears to further isolate the CBD from the waterfront. While we acknowledge that the information provided states that "Adjustments/modifications to the track configuration may have to be made from year to year to accommodate the developments on Wellington Waterfront" (3.7.3) we are concerned about the impact the race will have in the development of the streetscape in the area of Jervois and Customhouse Quays. The information from the council suggests the potential for restricting development in this area or potentially compromising it: "Future streetscape planning and development would need to take the race event and track into account" (3.7.4).

These are important issues for the long-term development of the city and need to be addressed in terms of the full scope of design, rather than as short-term narrowly utilitarian solutions.

**Noise in the area**

We acknowledge the council's recognition of the need to both monitor and minimise noise for workers and residents in the proximity of the race site and we support this.

**Conclusion**

We urge the council to develop strategies for how long-term development of this area of the city can continue in the context of the car race to prevent semi-permanent and compromised urban design in this key area of the city.

Yours sincerely,

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